

## **Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting**

March 20, 2012

Mr. Barry Clegg, Chair  
Minneapolis Charter Commission  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 317  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: March 15 Map

Dear Mr. Clegg and Members of the Redistricting Committee:

My name is Abdulkadir Warsame, the lead coordinator for the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting. Our Committee fully supports the proposed map of March 15, 2012.

The reason for this is that the map meets the principles that we have set forth in our proposal.

- It creates a minority coalition opportunity in ward 6 with a majority East African population. It unites the Cedar Riverside, Seward East, Elliott Park, Venture Village and vital parts of the Phillips community into a single ward.
- It keeps all of Mid-Town Phillips in ward 6; this area has around 400+ homes, numerous small businesses owned by East Africans and steadily growing. The largest Mosque in Minnesota is also located in the neighborhood.
- It also creates a minority opportunity ward 9, with a majority Hispanic population.
- It keeps the Native American area of Little Earth together and in ward 9 and hence does not split their community.
- It is compact, contiguous and meets the one-person-one vote principle.

The East African community as a whole welcomes the new map. If this map is approved our community will have greater confidence in the system. It is a highly motivated, cohesive and by and large voter eligible community. Thus the proposed map would go a long way to address the lack of representation and exclusion that the community currently feels.

Very truly yours,

Abdulkadir Warsame  
On behalf of the Citizens Committee for Fair Redistricting